

NORDENSKJÖLD

The Great Explorer Tells the Story of the Arctic Night.

PRISONERS OF THE ICE.

Intense Cold—Studious Observers—Busy Collectors—No Sickness.

ARCADIANS OF THE ARCTIC.

How the Gentle Tchuktschis Live and Love without a Government.

A THEORY OF THE AURORA.

Completing the Northeast Passage in July Last.

ARRIVAL AT YOKOHAMA.

Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 20, 1879.
From the chief himself I learn that the public in America and Europe are already in possession of full particulars of the adventures and history of the party up to the 17th of February, 1879. Your provision for a telegram from Japan announcing the arrival of the Vega and giving an outline story of her voyage hither will have been the means of informing the whole civilized world of the successful achievement of a passage long deemed impracticable and one which has hitherto baffled the most experienced and hardy explorers. Professor Nordenskjöld and his officers are supremely touched by what they term the liberality of the New York Herald in incurring of its own spontaneous motion the expense involved in the transmission of so long a message. The great explorer says that out of the many kindnesses that have been offered to him from the moment when his undertaking was projected, none have been more gratifying to him. He modestly remarks that such a message was quite beyond his resources, his own despatches being necessarily curtailed and restricted to the barest skeleton. His friends at home have telegraphed to him here and thus he is assured as a fact what I have to promise—that his movements and experiences up to the date above mentioned are known to the Western world. On that day he himself sent a long and detailed narrative to his friend Dickson, at Gothenburg, and every one of his staff sent hither and thither detailed and varied information. Thus there is every reason to believe, although we have not yet received in Japan the journals containing the description of occurrences and life on board the little Arctic steamer previous to February last, that we shall have them by an early mail. To observe by last American advice that the *Jeannette* was at Umanak in August. This is about the time that the *Vega* was cruising from shore to shore and island to island in and south of Behring Strait, so that it is quite possible that DeLong and Nordenskjöld may have been within hailing distance of each other. The latter gentleman expresses, and evidently feels, the most lively interest in the enterprise of the other and speaks in the most glowing terms of admiration of the vast scope of the schemes of the American expedition. He deeply regrets not having fared together with his American colleague, and I verily believe, would have consented to another month's residence in the ice if that would have insured the desired interview.

THE ICE-BOUNDED VESSEL.
It was on the 28th of September, 1878, that the further progress of the *Vega*, whose course had been very slow for several days previously, was finally arrested and imprisoned by the ice, and so compelled to take up her winter quarters. Two days more of open weather and sea and she would have entered Behring Strait and reached Yokohama ten months before she did. Her voyage, however, was delayed by the observations which had to be taken in various places, as well as by the occasional ice encountered, and thus it happened that foreign communities were long in suspense as to the fate of the investigators. Meanwhile these were located, in what comfort can be attained in Arctic regions, on the east side of Koljutschin Bay, one mile from shore, in latitude 67 deg. 7 min. north, longitude 173 deg. west from Greenwich.

WIND AND WEATHER.
The time passed without extraordinary incident until the date of the release of the ship, on the 18th day of July according to Asiatic, the 17th according to American time. As a rule the cold was intense during the winter months. Northwestern winds, often amounting to storms, were very constant. At rare intervals mild weather was experienced. For instance, on one day in February the temperature was some degrees above freezing point. Sometimes the breeze would come from the westward, and then there would be some opening in the ice, but all far from the steamer, which thus had no chance of escaping. Snow storms were of almost continual occurrence, and offered a peculiar feature. The flakes never melted enough to be subsequently frozen together in fields, as is the case in Scandinavia and Northern America. This it can easily be conceived that, with the prevailing strong gales, enormous masses of snow were nearly always in motion. Hence tremendous drifts were formed on the ice and ashore, and exploring excursions were rendered both difficult and dangerous. During the whole of the sojourn our friends were in terms of amity and cordial intercourse with a happy, peaceful and interesting people, their indigenous neighbors of the mainland.

THE TCHUKTSCHIS.
These are known as the Tchuktschi (I give Nordenskjöld's literature). The ship was a constant rendezvous for them. The professor speaks of them as savages, inasmuch as their civilization is not very far advanced, but he is enthusiastic in his testimony to their excellent qualities, social, domestic and national. They do quite an extensive trade between Siberia and America, being locally within easy reach of many points in Alaskan territory, which is accessible to them both in winter and summer; in the former season by a solid bridge of ice, in the latter by the open sea. They employ sledges drawn by dogs, of which animals the explorer does not speak very highly. This season, perhaps, may have been an exceptionally severe one for both man and beast in the particular region of Northern Siberia where the party wintered. Nordenskjöld says that dogs were plentiful, but they were mostly weak and sallow from hunger, their masters often being unable to supply them with sufficient food. In this connection it is worth while to record that so high an authority as the great navigator does not think the services of dogs in Arctic exploration very valuable. They are apt to be sick and feeble, and their nourishment is always a matter of some difficulty. During the warm months the Tchuktschis make their trips to and from the American shore in skin boats, which, from the description given of them, I judge must have a striking resemblance to the old Celtic coracle or curragh. The more genial period and the water route are most favored by these Siberian peddlers for their excursions. When they travel over the ice parties of four, five or six traders will use one sledge, which has twenty or thirty dogs to drag it. Their common mode of the furs which they bring from America to the eastern continent, where they barter them with the Russians for simple commodities. Reindeer skins are also an article of their exchange.

"HARD TIMES" IN THE ARCTIC.
I have alluded to the probability of the year having been an exceptionally bad one. There certainly appears to have been a kind of famine last winter among these generous people. Many of them passed the ship on their travels, or simply came to see her out of curiosity. In every case they went on board to eat, as of right. The Swedish commander distributed as much as three thousand pounds of bread among these guests, who evinced a heartfelt gratitude for the bounty. They are described as distinctly differing from the Esquimaux tribes; and though it is not yet decided to what race they belong, they are thought to be related to the Kamtschadales and Koriatas.

A NATION OUT OF THE WAR BUSINESS.

Some very interesting and valuable details have been collected by Nordenskjöld and his staff as to their ethnography and history. About two hundred and fifty years ago they were distinguished and brilliant warriors. The discoverers have gathered a valuable assortment of the arms and armor of that period. Many of these implements are preserved among the families, whose habits are no longer aggressive. Very noticeable are their cuirasses carefully wrought out of mammoth ivory, and fashioned with a remarkable resemblance to the old Roman panoply. Their spears and bows are made of whalebone, wood and ivory, spliced and bound with the sinews of the reindeer, and showing an advanced perception of artistic ornamentation on the part of the makers. One hundred and fifty years ago the famous Russian, Colonel Pavlovski, commanded an expedition sent against them from Siberian settlements. In his first engagement with them he was badly wounded. He subsequently defeated them, but with heavy loss to his own troops, and has recorded much such a tribute to their valor as *Pyrrhus* bestowed upon the Italian legions which he overthrew. A mild form of disease is ascribed by the natives to have been lost behind by his soldiers and to still exist in existence.

NO GOVERNMENT AND NOE VIOLENCE.
At present the Tchuktschis are held to pay a small tribute, which is collected in the form of trifling debts for permission to trade in the marts of Nishinko-Yumsk and Anadyr. In spite of this, however, they admit no allegiance, and not one of those interrogated appeared to have any knowledge of the existence of a Czar at St. Petersburg. Strangely enough they have no government, no laws and almost no religion, if any. A Russian starost is their nominal ruler, but has neither authority nor influence. In fact, there seems to be no necessity for the exercise of either the one or the other, for his subjects are evidently an exceptionally excellent and well disposed people. The foreigners were on terms of intimacy with thousands of them and never saw or heard of a single case of quarrelling among them. Perfect harmony prevailed in the villages and families. Women have great influence and are treated by the men in all respects as their equals and with much politeness and deference. The language spoken by this tribe is peculiar, and, as far as has been yet determined, shows no affinity to others. On this subject, however, it is yet too early to speak with certainty. Lieutenant Nordqvist, of the Russian Imperial Guards, one of the specialists of the expedition, has formed a very large collection of their vocabulary and idioms, and when his work has been examined by philologists it is certain much interesting light will be thrown upon this branch of the subject, and will help to determine to what section of the human family the people belong. Probably they will be found to pertain to some special Polar-Mongolian or Polar-Caucasian race.

HANDSOME SAVAGES.
The features are less Mongolian in type than those of the Esquimaux or the other indigenous tribes of Siberia. The hair is generally, but not invariably, black, and the complexion is decidedly light. Young women are often very fair, handsome and of perfect symmetry and fine proportions. The men are tall, above the average height of man's growth, some of them attaining to very little short of the splendid stature of the best specimens of humanity in Northern Europe. One woman is mentioned to me as being of gigantic size, so large, in fact, that she might well be shown for money. One of Nordenskjöld's attaches has a note—I regret at this moment inaccessible to me—of her height and bulk, the former being over seven feet.

THEIR DIETARY.
Kjellman, the able botanist and old companion of the commander of the party in former Arctic travels, conducted the necessary researches into the dietary as well as of all the flora of the district, and has compiled matter enough to form a very valuable and elaborate treatise on its return to Europe. He finds that the Tchuktschis are omnivorous. They subsist upon the meat of reindeer, bears and seals, and fish and vegetables, a fact the more important to be noted, as they have hitherto been cited as one of the few races that are exclusively animal eaters. During their brief summer they collect a quantity of vegetable food and store it for winter use. A dairy with them is the stomach of a reindeer, killed when the beast has fed to repletion. The belly and the herbage it contains are cooked together and eaten with great relish. A similar custom to this prevails among the Esquimaux, whom Nordenskjöld's friends do not much resemble in face or feature. Nevertheless there are striking points of likeness in the dress, boots, arms and utensils of the two peoples. During the *Vega*'s long stay no deaths and only two or three births occurred among the Tchuktschis.

HOW THEY COULD.
It is a matter of considerable difficulty to estimate their ages with any approach to accuracy, as their idea of numbers is very vague, apparently not extending beyond eight or ten numerals. Thus if they wish to express five they hold up one hand, with the fingers spread out; they represent by two hands, twenty with the hands and feet, and if their calculation goes beyond that a second individual is called to aid in the demonstration of numbers between twenty and forty, it will be apparent from this that the age of individuals is not carefully recorded or remembered, but some of the people had evidently attained an extreme age. Little more, so far, remains to say about them or their mode of life, except that they possess a few guns among them, are familiar with gunpowder, and have in use some American axes, knives and saws. Very little foreign clothing is employed by them, their vestments being almost exclusively of skin. The nation probably numbers ten thousand souls, of whom one half inhabit the littoral between Techna Bay and Behring Strait and the other half dwell in the interior of the country.

THEIR ARCIANS.
Although the deck of the *Vega* contained numbers of them, from eight o'clock in the morning till six at night during her stay, nothing was stolen. When desired to leave the visitors departed. On the whole it is impossible to imagine a more Arcadian race, though no philosopher has yet expected to discover Arcadia so near the North Pole. A people without chiefs and without criminals, experiencing no difficulty in the distribution of the product of their joint exertions in fishing or hunting, whose sole sign of pride of wealth or fancy is the possession of a boat a little larger than ordinary, may well deserve the respect they have earned from Nordenskjöld and his party, and prove fitting subjects for further ethnological study.

THE MONTHS OF MARCH, APRIL AND MAY.
The months of March, April and May were very cold. In June the temperature became more comfortable, though even until the middle of the latter month there was no sign of liquefaction in the snow, which, however, had much diminished and continued to diminish in bulk by evaporation. Of course the most careful observations of all possible kinds were taken constantly during the time of the *Vega*'s detention. An hourly meteorological record was kept by Lieutenant Hovgaard, of the Danish navy, who also occupied himself with magnetic studies.

A HINT FROM THE TIDES.
Captain Palander, the second in command of the expedition, and master of the discovery vessel, based himself with the movements of the tide. From his observations his chief has made the deduction that, as tidal rise and fall are not between Wrangel Land (seen by Long, the American whaler) and the Franklin archipelago north of America.

been set up. Here on constant duty were one of the officers and two of the crew of the *Vega*. Their task was mentally hardly a light or corporeally pleasant one. Each watch was of six hours. Those on duty occupied an hour in going from and returning to the ship in a temperature almost always at least forty degrees below zero, Fahrenheit, and had to remain for five hours virtually motionless in a house where the thermometer marked an average of five degrees below zero.

NO SICKNESS.
The trial involved in this work was necessarily a severe one; but no one complained and no one suffered in health. No sickness occurred on board, and not a trace of scurvy ever manifested itself. Good provisions and good discipline may, no doubt, be largely thanked for this, though much is doubtless owing to the superior physique of the members of the expedition. These are all picked men, most of them below thirty-five years of age, only one or two are a trifle older than their illustrious leader, who is forty-six years of age. A little fresh meat—bear and reindeer—was procured by hunting, or from the friendly natives during the severest months. There were also some hares and ptarmigan, but scarce and hard to get. As spring advanced game became more plentiful, and at last flights of birds, in dense and numerous masses, came and provided sport and food for the explorers.

BIOLOGICAL EXTREMES.
Nordenskjöld, with his vast experience of Arctic regions, had supposed, before leaving Sweden, that the flora of Northern Siberia would closely resemble that of North Greenland and Spitzbergen. He actually found it, however, poorer in specimens, but much richer in kinds, and possessing several forms not known before. Many of the birds are supposed to winter in Japan and not very northern parts of North America. Lieutenant Nordqvist had the special task of collecting and examining them. He takes home a large assortment, the classification and adjustment of which are expected to be of special interest in accounting for the relation of the fauna of America and Siberia. While the voyage lasted extensive dredgings were made in the sub-Arctic Sea by the naturalist, Dr. Stuxberg, who was charged with the investigation of the invertebrate forms to be met with. Aided by an excellent apparatus he was enabled to discover that waters previously supposed to be almost devoid of animal life are really remarkably rich in that respect. He has already sent to the Academy of Science in Stockholm a preliminary memoir on this subject. He has numerous specimens of crustacea, echinoderms and annelids, some of extraordinary size and many before known. Botanical investigations were conducted by Dr. Kjellman and Almqvist, the former being specially bent in inquiries into the algae and flowering plants of the region visited. At the time the party left Sweden not one single specimen of alga was known to science as having a habitat between the Kara Sea and Behring Strait, and a general notion obtained that none existed. Kjellman examined the bottom of the sea in a number of places, and found that, though comparatively poor, it still contained no insignificant number of species. Those procured in the western sea correspond with European algae flora; those to the east with Pacific kinds. In Behring Sea the zoological and botanical researches were continued, with the result that Stuxberg collected a large number of invertebrates, while Kjellman was equally fortunate in his additions to his store of algae, finding many large and beautiful specimens in waters before deemed to be without such kinds of life.

ARCTIC FLORA.
Indeed, no very correct knowledge of these regions was available before the explorations of Dall, the American scientist. No more accurate notions were entertained on the subject of the phanerogamic flora of Northern Siberia, than of which traces the eminent Russian naturalist, Middendorf, says that they are "almost as destitute of higher species of plants as is the Antarctic continent," and that "on the eastern shore nothing but mosses and lichens, and these few in number, are to be met with." Already the investigations made by the English and American Franklin expeditions have proved that this estimate was not accurate. Now Kjellman brings us the additional intelligence that the whole coast, with the exception of a few barren interstices, is covered with glowing vegetable life. He has made a collection of more than one hundred and fifty specimens, whereof twenty-three were procured on Cape Tchuktschi, or close to the extreme eastern point of Asia. South of Behring Strait the vegetation was most luxuriant and much mixed with more southern forms. In places the soil was literally covered with flowers, so as to resemble nothing more than a gorgeous Brussels carpet. Greater luxuriance could seldom be found in tropical countries. Dr. Almqvist's accumulation of lichens, which he found in vast quantities in the north, but less multitudinous in more southerly directions, will enable him to describe justly all the lichenography of Northern Siberia. Unfortunately, the resources of the expedition did not permit of the services of a specialist for mosses being attached to it. Nevertheless a number of specimens of this division of cryptogamia were gathered and will be classified.

SEA TEMPERATURE.
The hydrographic department was under the control of Lieutenant Bove, a talented young officer of the Italian navy, who has enriched the work of the party by important annotations. It must be remembered that he had to take notice of the phenomena apparent in a sea between Yenisei and Wrangel Land, never before traversed by any ship. He found the surface temperature of the water extremely variable. It was tolerably high near the mouths of the large rivers, which empty their comparatively tepid floods into the silent and frozen sea. Sometimes the surface liquid was so fresh that it was palatable to drink. A fathom or two deeper it might be intensely salt and cold, and then the bottom water would be temperate or even warm by contrast, registering as little as two centigrade degrees below the freezing point. It was found that water from the surface bottled and sunk to the bottom would freeze there, and that it had the effect of a deadly poison upon the living forms which move in regions immediately below it.

THEIR SUBORDINATES.
While his subordinates were thus busy the master himself was superintending and arranging the results of their toil. His special attention was, besides, devoted to the observation and registration of auroral phenomena. He announces that the year of his captivity was a minimum one of such appearances and sun spots. Throughout the winter he did not once observe that the Northern Lights attained the magnificent development acquired by them in Scandinavia. But whenever the sky was clear, and there was no sun or moon, he saw, constant in the northern horizon, and almost always in the same exact spot, a faintly luminous arc so motionless as to be susceptible of accurate measurement. This phenomenon, Nordenskjöld concludes, comes from an actual aureole, or ring of light, surrounding the northern portion of the globe. The centre should be the spot where Hall wintered, and its radius about eight degrees. The Swede opines that it girds the whole of North America with an enduring glory.

UP TO NEAR THE MIDDLE OF LAST JUNE the weather was still cold, below freezing point, the snow continuing to evaporate so rapidly that little of it was left. On the 14th there was a sudden change to milder weather. A heavy thaw set in and the coast land was so covered with mud and slush that all excursions had to be discontinued. The ice which bound the ship, however, was still so strong that the explorers did not hope to be able to leave before August. Throughout their stay there had been open water seaward, but far from the ship. On the 10th and 17th of July an opening manifested itself along shore, but the ice was still tenacious of its prisoner. So Nordenskjöld determined to take the steam launch to the sea, embark and visit some whaling ships reported by the natives to be near Behring Strait. By half-past one in the afternoon, when his preparations were almost completed, the ice which enclosed the *Vega* began to move. An hour later Captain Palander, who was prepared for every emergency, had steamed up. At half-past three the ship was free, steamed a short distance seaward to clear the ice, soon set her prow in the right direction, and experienced no further obstruction from ice in the Siberian Sea.

"STEAMING ALONG LIKE A LORD."
On the 20th the East Cape of Asia was passed in foggy weather, and saluted with flags and Swedish

salvo of three guns. Behring Strait was quickly entered, and the ship made good way to St. Lawrence Bay, at the mouth of which, as it was full of ice, anchor was dropped. After what time was necessary had been devoted to scientific observations, and a visit had been paid to a neighboring Tchuktschi village, the vessel proceeded to Port Clarence, on the American side of the Strait, for the purpose of permitting comparison of its flora with that of Northeastern Asia. Here some Northwesten Esquimaux were encountered. They are quite distinct from the Tchuktschis, with whom, however, they seem to have been confounded by some English writers.

THE ESQUIMAUX.
The modes of life of the two people are similar. The American Esquimaux were very good to our travellers, who exchanged with them their winter stock of clothes against a valuable ethnological collection. Members of the tribe possessed Remington guns, which were in striking contrast with their stone weapons. A curious habit of ornamentation exists among these people; they make holes in the lip on each side of the mouth big enough to pass a finger through and wear in them carved pieces of bone or stone, some showing a high degree of skillful workmanship. It seems now that this custom is giving place to the European use of wearing earrings. Higher esteem is bestowed by these Esquimaux upon money than the Tchuktschis accord to it. A few tribes of the latter are said to be living on the American continent further north than Port Clarence. From this latter point the *Vega* went to the Asiatic coast and entered Senavens Sound south of St. Lawrence Bay, which was still choked with ice. A good chart of this locality was drawn up by Admiral Rodgers, United States Navy, and found of much utility by Nordenskjöld. The coast at Senavens was found uninhabited, except by two Tchuktschi families, with reindeer. A little distance inland there are high mountains, mostly volcanic and plutonic; and the flora of the region is very luxuriant. Thence the expedition visited St. Lawrence Island, belonging to the United States, where several Esquimaux were found. Nordenskjöld intended next to explore a portion of Kamtschatka, but abandoned the project, as the wind was unfavorable, and there was not much coal left on board. (When released the *Vega* had eighty tons of fuel and about twelve months' provisions remaining.)

HOSPITALITIES AT BEHRING'S ISLAND.
The next place touched at was Behring's Island, sadly famous for the disastrous death of the distinguished commander whose name it bears. It is now occupied by the Russians, and the American Alaska Trading Company have a valuable station there. By the representatives of each nationality the voyagers were well received and hospitably entertained.

RYTINA STELLARIA.
The Professor's special object in going there was to collect the remains of the gigantic animal, the Rytina stellaria, now extinct, but alive in the days of Behring. He was successful in finding many bones, enough to construct a somewhat perfect skeleton, with which he proposes to endow European museums. At present no specimens are found except in some Russian collections. It was further intended and effected to institute a comparison between the condition of life now actually observable on the island, with the lively descriptions of the celebrated and unfortunate Russian sailor Steller, who wrote upward of one hundred years ago. The American agent supplied the party with fresh meat, giving them a whole cow, and refusing to take any payment.

A SEA NEAR PARK.
The most important industry of the island is the export of the skins of the sea bear (otaria ursina), which animal some years ago bid fair to become as obsolete as the ryntina, but is now thriving and multiplying under a very beneficent system of protection. On one promontory alone the naturalist counted some hundred thousand of the animals, whose fur is in such great request in American and European cities. From thirty to fifty thousand are slaughtered on Behring's and Copper Islands annually, but only at the time when the hair is in the best order. No young or females are allowed to be killed, and otherwise stringent regulations are enforced for the preservation of a valuable species. The result is that their numbers are now augmenting, and they display no fear or anxiety on the approach of men.

AT YOKOHAMA.
From Behring Nordenskjöld came direct to Yokohama, where he arrived on the 3d of September, experiencing no trouble on the passage, with the exception of a severe thunder storm almost at the termination of the journey. The mainmast was split by lightning, which so pervaded the vessel for an instant that almost all on board felt a distinct shock, as if delivered from a powerful electric battery. As a matter of course and right the gallant explorer and his train have been fêted and lionized. All sorts of entertainments have been devised in their honor; they have been specially presented to and complimented by the Emperor, and Japanese officials have outdone themselves in the graceful and proteus hospitality which they are so happy to show to distinguished or meritorious strangers.

A PEN SKETCH OF THE EXPLORER.
Nordenskjöld is a man of medium height and robust frame, with hair of the true Viking color, a hale, fair complexion and a clear, bright eye, whose powers of vision, however, are somewhat dimmed, if wearing spectacles is any criterion. His air and manner are candid and straightforward and inspire confidence. He is a man of prompt feeling of admiration and confidence. It is not astonishing that his followers should have the affection for him and trust in his judgment which they openly express and practically evince. As he is several years less than half a century old he may still aspire to the sublimation of fresh realms in the world of science, and his active brain is still revolving fresh schemes of research, though he might now well rest on the laurels to come to him from his recent great achievement, which must certainly rank with the grandest deeds of this age of discovery and exploit.

COMMERCIAL RESULTS FORWARDED.
His opinion upon the navigability of the Siberian Sea and the future result of his labors are as follows:—He thinks that the northeast passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans may probably be made every year, and will certainly be often repeated. At the same time he holds that trade between the two oceans can only indirectly benefit from his discovery. But he thinks that he has essentially demonstrated that there is no difficulty in the way of properly organized trade communication between Yenisei and Europe, and that such commerce can be so conducted that underwriters will be willingly take risks on vessels engaged in it as they are to insure against the accidents of the China Sea. Again, he apprehends no obstacles in the way of experienced navigators yearly plying from the Pacific on one side and the Atlantic on the other to the mouths of the Lena; and then, when the sea is available for intercourse between Lena, Yenisei and Obi and the vast oceans, almost all Siberia, and even some parts of North China, will be accessible by water.

THE NEW TRADE.
It is hard to estimate the great benefits which may be expected to accrue. A large and productive trade can be originated, fostered and developed in a very short space of time to great reciprocal gain and advantage. Those agricultural and other industries which are at size and give rise to national prosperity can be introduced cheaply into Siberia and exchanged for raw material which it is too expensive to export overland. Articles of luxury and pleasure, which for similar reasons can now only be imported at a price which prohibits their employment by a working man, can then be imported and become objects of general use. In fine, Nordenskjöld deems that the extent of Siberia, the rich variety of its soil and its other natural riches are only comparable to the same conditions in North America one hundred and fifty years ago, and he thinks that the future development of the rich tracts of Asia may equal that attained in the past by the United States.

ITS INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES.
Especially does it concern the latter country that the prospective and possible communication between the Lena and the Pacific should be looked to, and then the young but vigorous industries of the western districts of the United States would find fresh and practically inexhaustible markets for their productions.

THE STRANDED RELIEF SHIP.
With reference to the A. E. Nordenskjöld, the Russian Arctic vessel fitted out in the Baltic to go by

this route in search of the savant whose name it bears, we can now hope with some confidence that it will be got off the bank on which it is stranded, off the coast of Yezo. Captain Songtsak remains by his ship. Most of his staff and crew are in Yokohama.

PRINCE VALDEMAR.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND THEIR SEA KING'S SON—GRAND RECEPTION AT ST. THOMAS, WITH ORICLOTH, SPEECHES AND A PARTIALLY ECLIPSED ILLUMINATION.

St. Thomas, Sept. 27, 1879.
The Danish corvette *Dagmar*, with Prince Valdemar on board, cast anchor in this harbor at about ten A. M. to-day, immediately on anchoring the exchanged salutes with the fort. Shortly after the Governor went on board to pay his respects to the Prince, and he was saluted with fifteen guns. Arrangements were for the Prince to land at three P. M., and with commendable punctuality the *Dagmar*'s cutter, with His Royal Highness and the Captain of the corvette, touched the wharf at the hour struck. A long strip of new oricloth, instead of the traditional scarlet velvet, was spread on the edge of the wharf steps. The Prince was received upon landing by the Governor in full paraphernalia, by a full guard of honor and the military band, who as soon as he touched the wharf struck up the Royal Danish March. After walking along another strip of oricloth the Governor and Prince reached the first triumphal arch, which was decorated not only with the royal arms and emblems, but with busts of their Majesties the King and Queen of Denmark. Clustered about this arch were all the officials in full costume and a number of prominent and other citizens in full evening costume. Upon reaching the inside edge of the entrance of the arch the chairman of the Colonial Council stepped forward and made his address.

THE PRINCE REPLIES.
The Prince, who during the delivery of this long address showed some signs of impatience, but repeatedly bowed, replied briefly as follows:—"Allow me to thank you for your kind address and for this handsome reception. I bring to you all the good wishes and greetings of my father, His Majesty the King. I again thank you for this beautiful reception. I have to thank you for the cordial handshake with the Chairman of the Colonial Council, upon which the air was raised with shouts of 'Long Live the King!' and waving of the official sword of the Prince, who is tall and manly looking and some twenty-one years of age, and who was dressed in the uniform of a naval officer, decorated with the star and blue sash of the Order of the Elephant, the star of which the Governor had on his flag and drove the length of the main street of the town. The street presented a very animated appearance, being crowded with people. The stores were all closed, and the roofs of these as well as from the private houses along the route innumerable flags, banners and streamers were waving in many places, with most brilliant colored stars. They were stretched across the street with inscriptions of welcome. Many of the private houses were richly decorated with flags and evergreens. Altogether the scene presented a very brilliant and impressive appearance and the flags displayed were countless. Shortly after a levee had been held the Prince drove with his suite to the palace, where he was met by large numbers of the lower orders had congratulated to indulge in pig and sack racing, climbing greased poles and the like, after which he returned to the Governor's house, followed and surrounded by the populace, rendered frantic in their excitement but withal respectful. In the evening the Governor gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V. In the evening the Prince gave a banquet in his honor, which was laid for some thirty-five. It was intended that in the evening there should be a general illumination of the town and a display of fireworks from the fort, and this was partly carried out. Many commenced to light their houses and transparencies at seven P. M., and the general effect produced, especially when the water was lit, was singular to say, none of the public buildings were illuminated. Many of the private houses were very richly decorated with lights and flags, and the illumination was quite general, even little shops showing lights. Many of the buildings had perforated gas pipes running along the balconies and cornices, and the innumerable flags presented a beautiful appearance. In each instance there was attached to these pipes a large V